



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

December 6, 1999

Dear Set-top Box Manufacturer and Other Interested Parties:

EPA welcomes your input on the following *draft* specification (*Version 1.0*) for the ENERGY STAR® Set-top Box Program. The four-page document outlines the main criteria that manufacturers' products will need to meet to qualify for the ENERGY STAR label. All set-top manufacturers and other interested parties (e.g., service providers and component suppliers) are encouraged to review the draft specification and provide **comments by January 14, 2000**. Comments should be sent to me via e-mail at hershberg.craig@epa.gov. Questions may also be directed to me via e-mail or phone at 202-564-1251.

As proposed, the specification focuses on standby/low-power mode and covers a wide range of set-top boxes in order to maximize energy savings without compromising product performance. While reviewing the draft specification, please keep in mind that the primary objective of the ENERGY STAR Programs is to recognize the most energy-efficient products in the market through the use of the ENERGY STAR label. It is not EPA's intention to design a specification that will allow every model to qualify for the label. EPA plans, however, to set an ENERGY STAR specification that while challenging, provides manufacturers with appropriate incentives and lead-time to redesign products to meet the ENERGY STAR specification. For products that do not initially meet the specification, it is EPA's hope that manufacturers will strive to comply over time, thus eliminating less efficient products from the market.

All industry comments will be reviewed and considered carefully during the program development process. The exchange of ideas and information between EPA and industry is critical to the success of the ENERGY STAR Programs. As such, you are strongly encouraged to provide prompt feedback.

To ensure confidentiality when submitting comments, please mark appropriate information as CBI (Confidential Business Information). Unless otherwise noted, all information will be treated as proprietary and confidential and will not be shared with others without prior consent.

In the coming months, EPA will gather industry feedback on this Program and issue additional draft specifications as necessary. It is EPA's intention to finalize the product specification during the first quarter of 2000. The final specification will be issued in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will be jointly signed by interested companies and EPA. The MOU will provide effective dates for the Program, test procedures for manufacturers to determine compliance, ENERGY STAR logo use guidelines, product submittal forms, and other program information. To ensure a successful program, EPA would like interested parties to comment on all aspects of the Set-top Box Program before the specification is finalized.

Please note that I will be available to meet with company representatives to discuss any new developments in set-top boxes as well as industry comments on EPA's draft specification at the 2000 International Consumer Electronics Show® (CES) in Las Vegas on January 6, 7, and 8th. If you are interested in meeting, please contact me as soon as possible so arrangements can be made.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to review this draft specification. I look forward to working with you during the next several months. For more information about ENERGY STAR and specifically the Set-top Box Program, please visit our Web site at www.energystar.gov and click on "Products in Development."

Respectfully,

Craig Hershberg
EPA Program Manager
ENERGY STAR Home Electronics

Enclosure